CLAIMS



- A method for treating drinking water comprising:
- a) providing raw water to a process tank;
- b) adding an ion-exchange resin to the process tank to form a raw water/ion-exchange resin mixture; and
 - c) removing treated water from the process tank through a membrane filter.
 - 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the ion-exchange resin is a magnetic ion-exchange resin.
 - 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising agitating the raw water/ion-exchange resin mixture sufficiently to maintain the ion-exchange resin in suspension.
 - 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising separating the ion-exchange resin from the raw water/ion-exchange resin mixture.
 - 5. The method of claim 2 further comprising separating the ion-exchange resin from the raw water/ion-exchange resin mixture using a high gradient magnetic filter.
- 6. The method of claim further comprising regenerating the ion-exchange resin.
 - 7. The method of claim 6 further comprising providing the regenerated ion-exchange resin to the process tank.
 - 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the regenerating step is performed in an external counter current column.
- 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the regenerating step is performed in the process tank by adding a saline solution to the process tank.

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An apparatus for treating drinking water comprising:

a process tank for receiving raw water;

an ion-exchange resin supply operatively associated with the process tank to provide ion-exchange resin to raw water within the process tank; and

a membrane filter operatively associated with the process tank for separating particulate matter from treated water removed from the process tank through the membrane filter.

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The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising a resin separator operatively 11. associated with the process tank for recovering ion-exchange resin from an ion-exchange resin/raw water mixture.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the ion-exchange resin is a magnetic ion-exchange resin and the resin separator is a high gradient magnetic filter.

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13. The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a resin regenerator receiving removed ion-exchange resin form the separator.

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14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for conveying regenerated ion-exchange resin from the resin regenerator to the ion-exchange resin supply.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the resin regenerator is an external counter current column using a saline solution to regenerate the ion-exchange resin.

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16. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising an aerator in the process tank for agitating an ion-exchange resin/raw water mixture in the process tank.